

Application No. 10/692,180

Supplemental Amendment After Final under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 dated February 17, 2005

Reply to Office Action mailed November 30, 2004

REMARKS

An Amendment After Final under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 was filed in the present application on January 31, 2005. It is the Applicant's understanding that the Examiner has refused to enter the January 31, 2005 Amendment After Final. As discussed in greater detail below, the present Supplemental Amendment After Final under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 has amended the claims of the present application to conform to subject matter that Examiner has already indicated to be allowable and thereby place the application in condition for allowance.

Following entry of this Supplemental Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-20 and 22-27 will be pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 11 and 19 have been amended and claims 4, 21 and 28-40 have been cancelled hereby. The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claims 4, 10-16 and 21 is allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 28-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner has also rejected claims 28-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 28-40 have been cancelled hereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejections of claims 28-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs.

With regard to the substantive examination of the claims, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5-8, 17-19 and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over (1) Gerber (U.S. Pat. No. 6,364,579) in view of Zlotos (U.S. Pat. No. 6,588,988); (2) Gerber (U.S. Pat. No. 6,364,579) in view of Gerber et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,092,747); and (3) Gerber (U.S. Pat. No. 6,364,579) in view of Toyota et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,487,624). The Examiner also indicated that the subject matter of claims 4, 10-16 and 21 was allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended hereby to include the subject matter of previously pending claim 4 which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable. Claim 4 has been cancelled hereby. Claim 1 is the base claim for dependent claims 2, 3, 5-9, 17 and 18. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5-9, 17 and 18 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim and intervening dependent claims. The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 10 is allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is in condition

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for allowance.

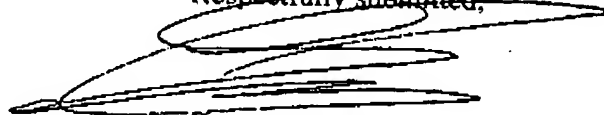
Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim and intervening dependent claims. Claim 11 is the base claim for dependent claims 12-16. The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 11 is allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11-16 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 19 has been amended hereby to include the subject matter of previously pending claim 21 which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable. Claim 21 has been cancelled hereby. Claim 19 is the base claim for dependent claims 20 and 22-27. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 19, 20 and 22-27 are in condition for allowance.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for any extension of time or payment of fee, Applicant hereby petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 16-0248, Pappas Law Offices. Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 426-2340.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance, allowing claims 1-3, 5-20 and 22-27, be issued in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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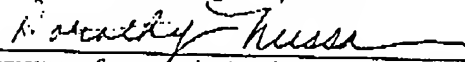
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